

PROCESS TO SEPARATE COLOUR BODIES AND/OR ASPHALTHENIC  
CONTAMINANTS FROM A HYDROCARBON MIXTURE

5

Process for separating colour bodies and/or  
asphalthenic contaminants from a hydrocarbon mixture  
using a membrane having a feed side and a permeate  
side, by contacting the hydrocarbon mixture with the  
10 feed side of the membrane, wherein between the feed  
and permeate sides of the membrane a pressure  
difference is applied, thereby passing part of the  
hydrocarbon mixture from the feed side to the  
permeate side and obtaining at the permeate side of  
15 the membrane a hydrocarbon permeate having a reduced  
content of colour bodies and/or asphalthenic  
contaminants, and by removing the hydrocarbon  
permeate from the permeate side of the membrane,  
wherein during selected time intervals the removal of  
20 hydrocarbon permeate from the permeate side of the  
membrane is stopped so that the pressure difference  
over the membrane is temporarily substantially  
lowered.